

ILLEGIB

23 February 1956

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Operations
THROUGH : Deputy Project Director
SUBJECT : Planning Tasks

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25X1A 1. Immediately following my conversation with you and [redacted] on 21 February (for part of which [redacted] was present), I made the following notes on the several planning tasks we had discussed, all of which I understand you either have in progress or propose shortly to undertake. I have also indicated target dates (most of which we discussed) for the completion of certain phases of the work. This summary is useful to me since it will help me to keep in touch with your activities. It will perhaps be useful to you as a reminder of our conversation.

2. The following are the more important procedures and arrangements which I understand you are developing:

25X1A a. Description and Schedule of Operational Instructions and Reports -- I have reviewed briefly a draft of this document with you. The form in which it is cast seems to me excellent, since it makes clear the purpose of each regular communication and establishes a reasonably accurate schedule. When put in final form, this will go far to define the day-to-day tasks of the Operations Center at Project Headquarters and will define quite precisely the degree of control over operations to be exercised from Headquarters. I understand you plan to war-game the procedure as presently proposed on the occasion of your trip to [redacted]. I assume you will review it on that occasion with [redacted] to assess the workload it would entail and to satisfy yourself that the workload, both on the Detachments and on Headquarters, is reduced to a minimum consistent with effective control and orderly, and adequate, reporting. You have probably already made some assessment, too, of the communications load that the proposed procedure would entail. Before it is finally approved, 25X1A [redacted] and I should discuss it with you more fully than we have yet had an opportunity to do, and I would like at that time to have your estimates of both the workload and the communications load. I know you wish to have this paper in final form soon after you return [redacted] in early March so the procedures can be war-gamed between this Headquarters and [redacted]. 25X1A

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b. **SOP for Headquarters Operations Center --** Under this heading we discussed a paper which would outline the usual daily schedule of activities at the Operations Center, indicate the specific responsibilities of its staff, procedures for mission planning and approval, etc. Such a document should be prepared if possible prior to your trip [] on 5 March so it can be discussed with [] there. It should certainly be completed prior to your departure for Europe in mid-March so the Operations Center can begin to function.

c. **Flight Procedures and Emergency Procedures in European Theater --** We agreed that the main purpose of your contemplated trip to Europe during the last two weeks of March will be to acquire information and make arrangements on the basis of which it will be possible to prepare a comprehensive annex on flight procedures to an operations order. In the meanwhile, it will be most useful to have an outline of such an annex, indicating the topics to be covered, and including at appropriate points in the outline the main questions of fact or policy which will need to be explored during your trip to Europe and finally determined when the full annex is prepared. This outline of an annex and indication of major questions should be ready in draft, if at all possible, by 29 February so [] and I can discuss it with you before your trip to [] and so you can go over it with [] on that occasion.

d. **Air-Ground Communications Code --** Since air-ground communication with primary mission aircraft on operational missions will have to be carried on in precoded messages, it will be necessary to devise an appropriate selection of messages and arrange simple digital coding of them. It will be desirable to have at least a first edition of such a communications code ready before Detachment A commences the conduct of simulated missions in the final stage of its unit training. This sets a deadline of around 1 April. It would be preferable if a draft code can be ready before your departure for Europe in mid-March.

e. **Arrangement of Navigational Aids in Cockpit --** Before long it will be necessary to decide what kinds of maps and charts pilots will take with them in operational missions, how these will be arranged for easy access and consultation, and in what form other data (such as precomputed solar observations) will be carried. This involves the question of devices for the ready display of such material to the pilot, and, possibly a drawing board on which any necessary computation can be done. We agreed that the final choice must largely reflect individual preferences. I believe you should explore this matter during your [] trip in early March so that materials can be prepared in the desired form, any devices that are required can be procured, and the completed arrangements can be tested in the final stages of unit training.

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3. If there are questions concerning the foregoing tasks which we should discuss further at this time, please let me know. In the meanwhile, I will assume that the work is going forward roughly as outlined above.

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RICHARD M. BISSELL, JR.
Project Director

RMB:gjg (23 Feb 56)

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